

People should not be punished for taking the time to care for new additions to their families. You must take time to take care of your child, your family, and yourself. It makes you a better person, a better parent, and in the long-term—a better employee. Pressure to jump back into work does nothing to ease mind, body, spirit, or financial pressures.

Simply said, the current policy is detrimental to many, many American families. The Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act shows that the federal government actually cares about American families.

Women who require leave to care for a new child, new employees who have do not have saved days, and those who have used all their leave suffer under the existing policy. These hard-working Americans are forced to choose between spending more time with their children and maintaining an income to support their family. Providing four weeks for paid parental leave and allowing existing leave to be used to care for new babies eases the pressures on federal employees and their families.

H.R. 5781 is just good, common sense policy, and, Mr. Speaker, we must act now. I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 5781.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAID
PARENTAL LEAVE ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support of the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act, introduced by Congresswoman CAROLYN B. MALONEY.

The bill H.R. 5781 provides Federal employees with 4 weeks of paid parental leave for the birth or adoption of a child. The introduction of this important bill is crucial to Federal workforce and American families. Paid parental leave will create the opportunity for many employees to become new parents while keeping the balance between work and families. Many of those who oppose this critical bill deny not only the chance for happy family living, but also productivity and effectiveness of the Federal workforce system. Paid Parental Leave Act does not increase the deficit of the budget; it will be paid for through discretionary spending, without hurting the economy or taxpayers.

In many countries all over the world, the paid parental Leave is introduced and supported by the government. The U.S. Federal Government should be an example of the family-friendly workplace policies. Members of Congress must understand how crucial the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act is and must strongly support its enactment.

EMERGENCY EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of H.R. 5749, the Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2008. Mr. Speaker as you know this bill provides up to 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits to those individuals and families struggling to find work.

The relief this measure brings to the 3.9 million Americans and the 221,000 residents of my State of Illinois is monumental and much needed. When I look at my own congressional district, I am saddened. I am saddened that the plight of this economy is taking such a toll on those who are out of work or just plain down on their luck.

The statistics are staggering and upsetting. While the national unemployment rate stands at 5.1 percent, the State of Illinois is suffering a 6.1 percent unemployment rate, and the Chicagoland area is suffering a 5.8 percent rate of unemployment. Moreover, minorities are disproportionately suffering in this time of rising job loss. Nationally, African Americans account for 8.8 percent of the unemployed; while the rate in the State of Illinois is 10.3 percent, and specifically in Chicago a rate of 10.6 percent.

Hard working families and people struggling to make ends meet are calling on us to make them the priority. With the price of gas and food climbing exponentially, rising home foreclosures, and businesses reducing their employment rolls—we in Congress have a responsibility to ensure the well being of our citizens.

The families of the First Congressional District, the State of Illinois and indeed the Nation, cannot wait on the Bush administration for help any longer. Chicago is suffering, Mr. Speaker, Illinois is hurting, America is in need of drastic relief of the Bush economic policies and we cannot afford to let these continue on our watch.

We Democrats have worked tirelessly this Congress to push issues and effect positive change in the economic lives of not only my constituents but the entire country. We have continually been met with resistance by our friends from the other side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I support the immediate extension of unemployment benefits and strongly urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 5749.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAID
PARENTAL LEAVE ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5781, the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act.

The legislation gives Federal employees 4 weeks of paid leave for the birth or adoption

of a child. Strong parental involvement plays an important role in raising a happy, healthy, and successful child.

As the country's largest employer with over 1.8 million employees, the Federal Government should set the standard for family friendly workplace policies.

I am proud to support this common-sense legislation, which promotes the family values that are at the core of our society while also setting an example for all employers across America to follow. Studies consistently show that paid parental leave is a smart business practice. Not only does paid leave help to reduce turnover, but it can also lead to increased productivity and better morale.

Simply put, offering 4 weeks of paid parental leave is the right thing to do—especially now, when the Federal Government is struggling to recruit and retain qualified, young individuals. As the economic and industrial leaders of the world, the U.S. Government should be the standard bearer on issues relating to fairness and family.

I urge the President to reconsider his misguided veto threat, and work with Congress to give more American parents the tools they need to build healthier and stronger families.

Please vote in support of H.R. 5781.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JAMES BARRETT, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE MICHIGAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of James Barrett, who is retiring after more than thirty years of service as the President and CEO of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, an organization which has had an influential role in many important social, economic and political issues in the state of Michigan.

Jim Barrett is well known and highly regarded in Michigan where he has been a leader in advancing Michigan business in a distinguished career that spanned four decades.

In addition to his work with the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Jim is also the President of Michigan Chamber Services, Inc. During his time there, Jim has worked diligently for the benefit of the Michigan business community by providing educational seminars, publications and many other services to help businesses grow and thrive.

Jim also has done extensive work for Michigan's youth as President of the Michigan Chamber Foundation, which is involved in improving the level of education our children receive as well as the leadership training so important to their future.

Jim's hard work and dedication was recognized many times over by his colleagues. Most notably in, 2002 he became an initial inductee into the Michigan Society of Association Executives Hall of Fame. Additionally, in 2003 the Michigan Political History Society selected Jim as the top Association Leader in Michigan over the last 50 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring James Barrett for being a model for all citizens, and for his dedication

and commitment as a leader in his state. He is truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL BRIAN W.
LAURITZEN

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize COL Brian W. Lauritzen, the Installation Commander at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. As a Member of Congress who represents Fort Belvoir, I know firsthand that Colonel Lauritzen has served with great competence, tireless determination and constant communication with the community during a time of great transition for his installation.

Colonel Lauritzen took command of Fort Belvoir, one of our Nation's largest and most diverse military installations, in July 2005 with major challenges awaiting him and even more on the horizon. Fort Belvoir was already engaged in master planning for redevelopment to expand the number of Department of Defense tenants and stretch the functions of the already busy installation. Then, just a few months into his tenure, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's final recommendations doubled the size of Fort Belvoir's incoming workforce by 2011.

The BRAC changes at Fort Belvoir, among the most substantial of BRAC 2005's mandates, will transform the installation into the major support center for the Nation's most senior military leadership. Ensuring a successful transition has brought with it the great challenges of working with both the Department of Defense and the local community. These challenges include timely and transparent planning, assessing the environmental and societal impacts of absorbing more than 19,000 new employees, managing the transportation infrastructure in an area already burdened by traffic, and ensuring that all of Fort Belvoir's defense tenants can still perform their vital national security missions.

Colonel Lauritzen has ably met these daunting challenges with the superb attitude that, in order to be successful, Fort Belvoir must continue to be receptive and responsive to the concerns of all of the surrounding communities. His early promise to the community that there would be "no daylight between us" has held true. Colonel Lauritzen established the BRAC Board of Advisors, a first-in-the-nation group bringing together members of the Army, incoming agencies, and the region's elected officials and local civic activists to identify development issues and keep open the lines of communication.

I have always found Colonel Lauritzen to be the consummate consensus builder. He personally has made more than 150 appearances and presentations before community groups to keep them apprised of the BRAC expansion, Fort Belvoir's other missions, and their impact on the community. Similarly, he built strong communication coalitions with and between the major commands headquartered at Fort Belvoir in support of their people and their global missions through the Installation Senior Leadership Council.

More than just communication, Colonel Lauritzen continues to facilitate progress, even when progress is difficult. He worked directly with Fairfax and Prince William Counties, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Army Corps of Engineers to address some of the many transportation challenges facing the region. Especially noteworthy is his personal involvement to secure an agreement to complete the extension of the Fairfax County Parkway, a vital connection across the Fort's Engineer Proving Ground, something that had festered unresolved for more than 10 years.

Inside the perimeter of his base, Colonel Lauritzen has steadfastly insisted that our Nation's Soldiers and their families deserve the highest quality of life. Fort Belvoir has one of the Army's most successful Residential Community Initiative programs that has revitalized the approach to military housing and neighborhood centers, creating first-class communities for those who serve our Nation in uniform.

On a more personal note, Colonel Lauritzen and his staff have eagerly addressed questions or constituent concerns that my office has brought to their attention. Regardless of how complicated or involved these requests may have been, I have always found his door to be open to discuss the issues and, more often than not, find compromise to difficult situations.

Madam Speaker, at Fort Belvoir's Change of Command Ceremony on Tuesday, July 2, Colonel Lauritzen—West Point graduate, Soldier, and extraordinary officer—will retire from the Army and enter a new chapter in his life. I have truly enjoyed working with him, and wish him all the best as he pursues new endeavors. He has truly served Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and our Nation with the highest standards of leadership expected from the very best of our military commanders.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth yesterday shocked Michigan when it released its unemployment figures. Michigan's unemployment rate has risen from 6.9 percent in April to 8.5 percent in May. This is the highest rate in our State since October of 1992. Regrettably, we are now one month away from recording our eighth straight year of payroll job losses.

It is in this context that my constituents are hearing the news that Congress is debating providing additional unemployment benefits which are desperately needed by too many working families in my State. Last week this House passed H.R. 5749, the Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act, with nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Members of the House voting in favor. This bill would provide an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits to unemployed workers in every State. Unemployed workers in States with exceptionally high unemployment rates, like Michigan, would receive an additional 13 weeks of benefits beyond that. Unfortunately, the provision granting

workers in States like Michigan an additional 13 weeks of benefits, which received very strong bipartisan support in the House just last week, is not included in this supplemental appropriations bill.

The unemployment benefits provision in this supplemental provides just 13 additional weeks for every State. It does not provide any extra help for States that need it the most. States like Michigan where the unemployed are having great difficulty finding work because there are so few jobs to be had. Workers have little opportunity to move to other areas to find work because they can't sell their homes, and they are having difficulty driving far distances to try and find a new job because of the high cost of gas. Michigan, with the worst unemployment rate in the Nation, needs extra help. This supplemental does not provide it.

I will be supporting both sections of the supplemental. It provides equipment and pay for our troops in harm's way and educational benefits for them when they return home. And the level of aid to the unemployed all across the country is a good start. However, I am disappointed we have not provided the much needed extra assistance to those who need it most. We must continue to work to help the chronically unemployed to get that additional safety net that will help support countless families in Michigan.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
ANDREW L. JEFFERSON, JR.

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize a distinguished academic, activist, and advocate, my friend, the Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr. The passage of H. Res. 31, which recognizes the Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson on the occasion of the establishment of The Andrew L. Jefferson Endowment for Trial Advocacy at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law, is a fitting tribute to a man whose life exemplifies excellence and integrity.

The Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, a native of Dallas, Texas, graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1959 after earning his Bachelor's degree from Texas Southern University, was president of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, and became a partner with the law firm of Washington and Jefferson in Houston, Texas.

He served as an assistant criminal district attorney for Bexar County, a chief assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas, and a trial counsel and labor relations counsel for Humble Oil and Refining Company. In 1970, Judge Jefferson was appointed to preside over the Court of Domestic Relations number 2 for Harris County. In 1974, he was elected to Judge of the 208th District Court.

In 1975, he decided to re-enter the active practice of law and was admitted to the United States Court of Appeals for Fifth, Sixth and Eleventh Circuits, and the Supreme Court of the United States of America. A long time active committee member of the State bar,